

## MOTION

## HOUSING

## Breaking the Cycle of Poverty - Ending Family and Childhood Poverty

Since the early days of the pandemic, the City of Los Angeles has enacted meaningful policies and programs to ensure the financial stability of Angelenos during the economic downturn. Not only did the City undertake groundbreaking efforts, such as Project Roomkey, to protect individuals living on the streets, we also swiftly adopted an eviction moratorium to protect housing-insecure individuals and prevent them from falling into homelessness. The City's rental assistance program--the largest implemented by any municipality in the nation's history-- directly put hundreds of millions of dollars in the hands of over 50,000 households who needed it. Another \$50,000,000 was allocated to the L.A. Department of Water and Power to provide financial assistance to residents who were struggling to pay for basic necessities. The Department of Recreation and Parks quickly reconfigured their centers to become Alternative Learning Sites, helping thousands of parents, who would have otherwise lost wages, to go back to work and provide for their families. Perhaps most significantly, the City is implementing the largest Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) pilot in the nation to provide consistent financial support to over 3,000 households for a full year.

But while the pandemic unmistakably surfaced the financial insecurity present across our nation, poverty has been a harsh reality for too many individuals long before the existence of COVID-19. In 2019, 100,362 families and 193,369 children under the age of 18 lived below poverty levels in Los Angeles. Nearly a quarter (23%) of all kids under the age of five in Los Angeles live in poverty. These are heartbreaking truths and shameful stains on the moral fabric of our city and nation.

While L.A. has seen a successful gradual decline in these numbers over the past decade, we know that the national poverty rate in 2020 increased for the first time after five consecutive years of decline. Even if the declining trends of the past decade consistently continue in L.A. (which is unlikely given the nation-wide economic impacts of the pandemic), over 40,000 L.A. families and 30,000 children are projected to still be living in poverty in 2045. This is unacceptable-- we cannot have another generation of children born and raised in poverty in a region with so much wealth.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council adopt a goal of ending family and childhood poverty in L.A. by 2035, and instruct the Community Investment in Families Department (CIFD) to develop a strategic action plan for reaching this goal; including recommendations for a prioritized expansion of current City programs and/or the creation of new programs to achieve this goal.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council instruct the CIFD to work with the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to develop a regional strategy that supports the City's strategic action plan.

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I **FURTHER MOVE** that the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) with assistance from the CIFD and any other relevant departments be instructed to report back with a comprehensive list of City programs and efforts aimed at alleviating poverty among families and children across all City departments, and identify gaps in services.

I **FURTHER MOVE** that the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the CLA, in preparation for budget discussions for FY 22-23, be instructed to report back with a list of anti-poverty policies and programs that have been implemented by the City in response to the pandemic and provide recommendations on the continuation of those efforts beyond the state of emergency.

PRESENTED BY:   
NURY MARTINEZ  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT, 6<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:   
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Council Member, 7<sup>th</sup> District

  
NITHYA RAMAN  
Council Member, 4<sup>th</sup> District